

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 510

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Friendship Christian School on winning the 2017 TSSAA Division II Class A State Football Championship.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those student athletes who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as true sportsmen of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Friendship Christian School football team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2017 season, winning the coveted Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Division II Class A State Football Championship, the State's highest level of high school football competition; and

WHEREAS, state championships are achieved only through hard work, dedication, perseverance, and the ability to come together as a team and excel with a cooperative spirit, and the Friendship Christian Commanders exhibited each of these rare qualities during their championship season; and

WHEREAS, the team readily bested all contenders they faced during the playoff season, including the Middle Tennessee Christian School Cougars, who were defeated by a score of 48-8, and the Nashville Christian School Eagles, who were defeated by a score of 27-23; and

WHEREAS, the Commanders met their final opponent, the Donelson Christian Academy Wildcats, at the BlueCross Bowl at Tennessee Technological University's Tucker Stadium in Cookeville. Through teamwork and unwavering determination, the Commanders tamed the Wildcats and claimed the state championship with a final score of 34-10; and

WHEREAS, this tremendous victory is Friendship Christian School's third state championship since 2011, and it concludes a perfect, undefeated season, a first for a Wilson County team during the playoff era; and

WHEREAS, the members of this magnificent team are Jajuan Foutch, Gray Taylor, Chad Holcombe, Seth Filson, Colt Mahoney, Ben Jamison, Jacob Bostian, Taylor Carman, Jackson Cherry, Matthew Skeen, Cade Powers, Cabe Wyatt, Braden Reece, Ernie Gallatin, Austin Tomlinson, Elijah Ball, Kaylor Gaines, Luke Smith, Jackson Eskew, Justin Seagraves, Cade Holcombe, Dorian Champion, Jaheim Robinson, Hayden Alexander, Lee Palmer Bridges, Ryan Jackson, Drew Porter, Kolby Gaines, Neill Kane, Camden Hayslip, Daniel Graves, Dylan Goolsby, Jack Martin, Bobby Owen, Mitchell Bare, Caleb Bridges, Dillon Johnson, Zachary Elliott, and Noah Tidwell; and

WHEREAS, Jajuan Foutch was named State Championship Game Offensive Most Valuable Player, and Taylor Carman was named State Championship Game Defensive Most Valuable Player; and

WHEREAS, this championship team undoubtedly benefited from the vast knowledge and steadfast guidance of their head coach, John McNeal; assistant coaches, Shaun Caven, Keith Dickey, Chris Eskew, Tim Filson, Regan Ingram, Ron Jackson, Ben Johnson, Duane Lowe, and Ron Welch; team chaplain, Todd Elliott; student assistants, Walker Cluck, David Porter, and Ethan Raymer; athletic trainer, Nathan Johnson; athletic training students, Maryah Cohen and Olivia Schmidt; team physical therapist, Oleg Urban; team physician, Dr. Roy Terry; high school principal, Veronica Bender; athletics principal, Randall Dunn; and president, Jon Shoulders; and

WHEREAS, the football players of Friendship Christian School epitomize all that is good in today's student athletes, as they have achieved the highest level of success on the field while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the field; they inspired the school's student body and united the entire community during their triumphant run through the 2017 season; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible their championship season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Commanders of Friendship Christian School for winning the state championship and for serving as exemplars of the high quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the players and staff of the Friendship Christian School football team on winning the 2017 TSSAA Division II Class A State Football Championship and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.